

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Their stance on refusing to air "Nightline" a few months ago, which was honoring the fallen in Iraq. combined with their current use of airwaves can only lead to one conclusion: Sinclair is unethically using their power to impact the future of this country. They have forgotten that the airwaves belong to America, not to them.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Such a use of free broadcast time is not in the best interests of a democracy, nor can it be claimed that any type of partisan broadcasting will further the freedoms we enjoy.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.

Further, I request that you keep this letter in your files as justification to decline a renewal of broadcasting license(s) to Sinclair Broadcasting.